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The Nobel Peace Prize.

On the 10th of December, the anniversary of the birth of Alfred Nobel, the Nobel Peace Prize for 1913 was awarded to Senator Henri La Fontaine, of Brussels. This action of the Norwegian Nobel Committee has been approved universally and enthusiastically by the pacifists of the world, as Senator La Fontaine is everywhere considered to be a genuine, capable, untiring, tried, and successful peace worker.

Senator La Fontaine, born in 1854, is a representative of the working classes, and politically he is and always has been a Social Democrat. His rise to a position of influence in Belgium was steady, but not striking, though he became finally, by dint of effort, wisdom, and devotion to the good of the people, one of the most serviceable men of the country. Devoting himself to the law, where he reached the bar of the Supreme Court, he was chosen to the Senate in 1895, where he has remained ever since, with the exception of a couple of years. In 1878 he became secretary of the Model Technical School for Girls. In 1891 he joined the Socialist party, and in 1893 founded the journal *La Justice*, and later became associated with *Le Peuple*. In 1894 he assisted in founding Brussels University, and was elected professor of international law in the university faculty.

Senator La Fontaine became early interested in international affairs. He joined the Belgian Peace Association, and for many years has been president of the International Peace Bureau at Berne. He has always been one of the most active, interested, and intelligent of the members of the international peace congresses, and was last September chosen as president of the Twentieth International Peace Congress at the time of the ceremonies of the dedication of the Hague Peace Palace. The Interparliamentary Peace Union, founded by William Randal Cremer and Frédéric Passy in 1888 and 1889, has had his active support from the beginning, and no member of this great body of statesmen has been more efficient than he.

In 1897 Senator La Fontaine established his remarkable "House of Documentation," the purpose of which was to keep track systematically of the events of the world. In 1910, in co-operation with his friend, Paul Otlet, he organized the Union of International Associations, whose committee has been installed in Brussels in suitable quarters provided by the Belgian government. This association held its first conference in 1910, and one hundred and thirty-two international organizations were represented in it.

Senator La Fontaine has always been a prolific writer, numerous articles from his pen having appeared in papers of a social and political character as well as in pacifist journals. In 1908, with the support of some of his pacifist friends, he undertook to edit the *Annuaire de la Vie Internationale*, and four years later the periodical *La Vie Internationale*. Among his most useful accomplishments have been his works on arbitration, his "Code of International Arbitration," his "Documentary History of International Arbitration," his "Chronological History of Arbitration Since 1794 Down to 1900," and his "Bibliography of Peace and Arbitration."

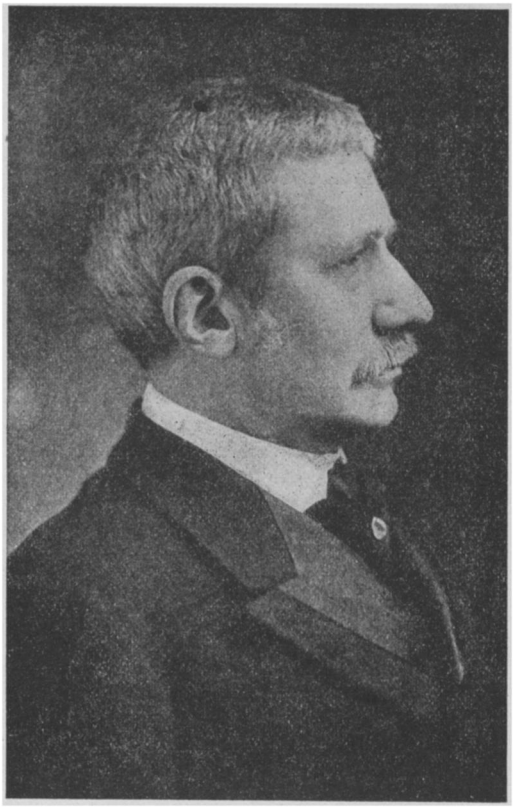
Mr. La Fontaine early became convinced that the great and growing armies and navies of the world were not only absurd and iniquitous, but an ever-increasing burden upon the productive power and welfare of the people, the effect of which, if continued, must inevitably be economic exhaustion and the ultimate collapse of civilization. He has consequently always been one of the most unalterable opponents of the current militarism of the time.

The Nobel Prize for 1912, which was not awarded by the committee at the time, was also most worthily bestowed on December 10th upon Senator Elihu Root. Senator Root's many services to the cause of international friendship and peace have been so well known for years, both in this country and throughout the world, as to need no extended comment. His work of pacification in Cuba, Porto Rico, and the Philippines in 1899 and subsequent years; his skillful handling of the Japanese school question in 1906, after he became Secretary of State; his remarkable pacific mission to the countries of Latin America in the same year; his matchless instructions to the United States delegates to the Second Hague Conference in 1907 and his influence in securing the admission of all the American republics to the deliberations of the Conference; and his subsequent negotiation and signature of the twenty-four arbitration treaties with other nations—these are among the universally recognized contributions of Senator Root's rational and humane statesmanship.

His high idealism and eminent skill in the field of international law have been notably exhibited in the settlement of the Alaskan seal-fishery dispute in 1903 and the Newfoundland fisheries dispute with England in 1910, in which latter case he was senior counsel for the United States. On the same day on which the Nobel Prize was conferred upon him, it was announced that he had been elected a member of the court of arbitration which is to settle the claims of British, French, and Spanish subjects in regard to property seized by the Portuguese government.

In 1910 Mr. Root was appointed president of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, a situation for which he is eminently qualified and in which he will be able to use his wide experience and ripe judgment in the administration of this great foundation for the promotion of international conciliation and peace.

When the degree of LL. D. was conferred upon Senator Root in 1907 by Harvard University, it was stated



By courtesy of the Pan-American Union

SENATOR ELIHU ROOT

that he had been thus honored because he was "an envoy of faith and good-will amongst the nations." Said Mr. Root upon one occasion: "The matters in dispute between the nations are nothing; the spirit which deals with them is everything."

The pacifists of the United States join in expressing their very great satisfaction that he has been so signally honored by the Nobel Committee.

Significance of the Hensley Resolution.

These are encouraging times for the peacemaker. The French Chamber has overthrown its Ministry and refused to foot the big new military bill. M. Caillaux is the man of the hour in France, because he represents the people in their opposition to the "three years' law"—indeed, in their opposition to the entire program of *la revanche* typified by M. Poincaré and his followers. The German Reichstag has scathingly censured its Ministry because of the intolerable burdens of the military despotism in Germany. Mr. Asquith has called upon the peoples to force their governments to end the waste of armaments. Our own Secretary of the Navy has recommended that the United States take the initiative in the promotion of some plan for lessening the cost of our extravagant preparations for war. As indicated elsewhere, the President of the United States emphasizes in the forefront of his message the importance of ratifying arbitration treaties and his belief in an age of settled peace and good-will. In the language of the English "Nation," the movement against militarism "is the biggest and most urgent of all issues that confront contemporary civilization." Even in France and Germany it is "growing definite, acute, and clear."

But more significant than any of these was the passage of House Resolution 298, introduced by Congressman Hensley, of Missouri, October 31, and passed practically by a unanimous vote—317 for to 11 against—Monday, December 8. The resolution reads:

"*Resolved*, That in the opinion of the House of Representatives the declaration of the First Lord of the Admiralty of Great Britain, the Right Hon. Winston Churchill, that the government of the United Kingdom is willing and ready to co-operate with other governments to secure for one year a suspension of naval construction programs offers the means of immediately lessening the enormous burdens of the people and avoiding the waste of investment in war material.

"SECTION 2. That a copy of this resolution be furnished the President, with the request that, so far as he can do so, having due regard for the interests of the United States, he use his influence to consummate the agreement suggested by the Right Hon. Winston Churchill."

A score of speeches, many rising to the heights of real eloquence, were delivered in support of the resolution. From a careful reading of these addresses certain things stand out in bold relief. The United States Congress is awake to the fact that war does not furnish any longer the incitement of collective profit except for the powder, ordnance, and battleship makers. Of these last Congressman Kent, of California, said:

"Their reward, however small in proportion to national waste, has been sufficient to cause them to incite extravagance and to encourage distrust and trouble. The fomenters of war are the lead-pipe thieves of civilization."

Congressman Heflin stated:

"The armor-plate trust and the steel trust, which constitute the shipbuilders' trust, are forever urging Congress to build more battleships. Millions of the people's money are expended building one battleship after another, and the same interests in America that profit greatly whenever we build a battleship send their agents abroad to urge other nations to build more battleships because America is doing so. They sell material to this and other countries. I am told that whenever we order the building of a new battleship this shipbuilders' trust makes a photograph of it and takes it to England and France and Germany. The picture is exhibited to these foreign powers, and they are told that they had better build more battleships, because America has just ordered a new one to be built. And on it goes."